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No.

**Fundamentals of the state policy of the Russian Federation in the field of
nuclear deterrence**

DECREE

PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**On approval of the principles of state policy
of the Russian Federation in the field of nuclear deterrence**

In order to improve the state policy of the Russian Federation in the area
of nuclear deterrence, I decree:

1. To approve the attached Fundamentals of the State Policy of the
Russian Federation in the Field of Nuclear Deterrence.
2. To declare invalid the Decree of the President of the Russian Federation
of June 2, 2020 No. 355 "On the Fundamentals of the State Policy of the
Russian Federation in the Field of Nuclear Deterrence" (Collected Legislation of
the Russian Federation, 2020, No. 23, Art. 3623).
3. This Decree shall enter into force on the day of its signing.

President
Russian Federation

V. PUTIN

Moscow, Kremlin
November 19, 2024
N 991

Approved
By Decree of the President
Russian Federation
from November 19, 2024 N 991

BASICS
state policy of the Russian Federation in the field
nuclear deterrence

I. General Provisions

1. These Fundamentals are a document of strategic planning in the sphere of ensuring defense and reflect official views on the essence of nuclear deterrence, define military dangers and threats for the neutralization of which nuclear deterrence is carried out, the principles of nuclear deterrence, as well as the conditions for the transition of the Russian Federation to the use of nuclear weapons.

2. Guaranteed deterrence of a potential enemy from aggression against the Russian Federation and/or its allies is one of the highest state priorities. Deterrence of aggression is ensured by the entire military might of the Russian Federation, including nuclear weapons.

3. The state policy of the Russian Federation in the area of nuclear deterrence (hereinafter referred to as the state policy in the area of nuclear deterrence) is a set of coordinated political, military, military-technical, diplomatic, economic, informational and other measures, united by a common concept, implemented with reliance on the forces and means of nuclear deterrence to prevent aggression against the Russian Federation and (or) its allies.

4. State policy in the area of nuclear deterrence is defensive in nature, aimed at maintaining the potential of nuclear forces at a level sufficient to ensure nuclear deterrence, and guarantees the protection of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the state, deterrence of a potential enemy from aggression against the Russian Federation and (or) its allies, and in the event of a military conflict, preventing the escalation of military actions and their termination on terms acceptable to the Russian Federation and (or) its allies.

5. The Russian Federation considers nuclear weapons as a means of deterrence, the use of which is an extreme and necessary measure, and takes all necessary efforts to reduce the nuclear threat and prevent the aggravation of interstate relations that could provoke military conflicts, including nuclear ones.

6. The normative and legal framework of these Fundamentals consists of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, generally recognized principles and norms of international law, international treaties of the Russian Federation, federal constitutional laws, federal laws, other normative legal acts and documents regulating issues of defense and security.

7. The provisions of these Fundamentals are mandatory for implementation by all federal government bodies, other government bodies and organizations participating in ensuring nuclear deterrence.

8. These Fundamentals may be revised depending on external and internal factors affecting the provision of defense.

II. The essence of nuclear deterrence

9. The Russian Federation shall exercise nuclear deterrence with respect to a potential enemy, which shall be understood as individual states and military coalitions (blocs, alliances) that regard the Russian Federation as a potential enemy and possess nuclear and/or other types of weapons of mass destruction or significant combat potential of general-purpose forces. Nuclear deterrence shall also be exercised with respect to states that provide the territory, air and/or sea space and resources under their control for the preparation and implementation of aggression against the Russian Federation.

10. Aggression by any state from a military coalition (bloc, alliance) against the Russian Federation and/or its allies is considered as aggression by this coalition (bloc, alliance) as a whole.

11. Aggression against the Russian Federation and/or its allies by any non-nuclear state with the participation or support of a nuclear state shall be considered as a joint attack by them.

12. Nuclear deterrence is aimed at ensuring that a potential adversary understands the inevitability of retaliation in the event of aggression against the Russian Federation and/or its allies.

13. Nuclear deterrence is ensured by the presence in the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation of combat-ready forces and means capable of using nuclear weapons to inflict unacceptable damage on a potential enemy under any

conditions, as well as the readiness and determination of the Russian Federation to use such weapons.

14. Nuclear deterrence is carried out continuously in peacetime, during periods of immediate threat of aggression and in wartime, up until the start of the use of nuclear weapons.

15. The main military dangers that, depending on changes in the military-political and strategic situation, may develop into military threats to the Russian Federation (threats of aggression) and for the neutralization of which nuclear deterrence is carried out, are:

a) the presence of nuclear and/or other types of weapons of mass destruction by a potential enemy that could be used against the Russian Federation and/or its allies, as well as means of delivering these types of weapons;

b) the presence of a potential adversary and its deployment of anti-missile defense systems and means, medium- and shorter-range cruise and ballistic missiles, high-precision non-nuclear and hypersonic weapons, strike unmanned vehicles of various basings, and directed energy weapons that could be used against the Russian Federation;

c) the build-up by a potential adversary in territories adjacent to the Russian Federation and its allies and in adjacent maritime areas of general-purpose force groups that include nuclear weapons delivery vehicles and/or military infrastructure that supports their use;

d) the creation and deployment by a potential adversary in space of anti-missile defense and anti-satellite warfare systems, as well as strike systems;

d) the deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems on the territories of non-nuclear states;

e) the creation of new or expansion of existing military coalitions (blocs, alliances), leading to the approximation of their military infrastructure to the borders of the Russian Federation;

g) actions of a potential enemy aimed at isolating part of the territory of the Russian Federation, including blocking access to vital transport communications;

c) actions of a potential enemy aimed at the destruction (destruction, annihilation) of ecologically hazardous objects of the Russian Federation, which may lead to man-made, ecological or social disasters;

i) planning and conducting by a potential adversary of large-scale military exercises near the borders of the Russian Federation;

k) the uncontrolled proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their means of delivery, technologies and equipment for their manufacture.

16. The principles of nuclear deterrence are:

- a) continuity of activities to ensure nuclear deterrence;
- b) adaptability of nuclear deterrence to military dangers and threats;
- c) uncertainty for a potential adversary regarding the scale, time and place of possible use of nuclear deterrent forces and means;
- d) centralization of state management of the activities of federal executive bodies and organizations participating in ensuring nuclear deterrence;
- d) the rationality of the structure and composition of nuclear deterrence forces and means, as well as their maintenance at a level sufficient to accomplish the assigned tasks;
- e) maintaining constant readiness of the allocated part of the nuclear deterrent forces and means for combat use;
- g) centralization of control over the use of nuclear weapons, including those deployed outside the territory of the Russian Federation.

17. The nuclear deterrent forces of the Russian Federation include land-, sea- and air-based nuclear forces.

III. Conditions for the transition of the Russian Federation to the application nuclear weapons

18. The Russian Federation reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response to the use of nuclear and/or other types of weapons of mass destruction against it and/or its allies, as well as in the event of aggression against the Russian Federation and/or the Republic of Belarus as participants in the Union State with the use of conventional weapons, creating a critical threat to their sovereignty and/or territorial integrity.

19. The conditions determining the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons by the Russian Federation are:

- a) receipt of reliable information about the launch of ballistic missiles attacking the territory of the Russian Federation and (or) its allies;
- b) the use by the enemy of nuclear or other types of weapons of mass destruction against the territories of the Russian Federation and (or) its allies, against military formations and (or) facilities of the Russian Federation located outside its territory;

c) the enemy's impact on critically important state or military facilities of the Russian Federation, the incapacitation of which will lead to the disruption of the response actions of nuclear forces;

d) aggression against the Russian Federation and (or) the Republic of Belarus as participants in the Union State with the use of conventional weapons, creating a critical threat to their sovereignty and (or) territorial integrity;

d) receipt of reliable information about a massive launch (take-off) of air and space attack weapons (strategic and tactical aircraft, cruise missiles, unmanned, hypersonic and other aircraft) and their crossing of the state border of the Russian Federation.

20. The decision to use nuclear weapons is made by the President of the Russian Federation.

21. The President of the Russian Federation may, if necessary, inform the military-political leadership of other states and (or) international organizations of the readiness of the Russian Federation to use nuclear weapons or of the decision taken to use nuclear weapons, as well as of the fact of their use.

IV. Tasks and functions of federal bodies
state authorities, other state bodies
and organizations for the implementation of state policy
in the field of nuclear deterrence

22. General leadership of state policy in the field of nuclear deterrence is exercised by the President of the Russian Federation.

23. The Government of the Russian Federation shall implement measures to implement economic policy aimed at maintaining and developing nuclear deterrence, and shall also formulate and implement foreign and information policy in the area of nuclear deterrence.

24. The Security Council of the Russian Federation shall formulate the main directions of military policy in the area of nuclear deterrence, and shall also coordinate the activities of federal executive bodies and organizations participating in the implementation of decisions adopted by the President of the Russian Federation concerning ensuring nuclear deterrence.

25. The Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, through the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, carries out direct planning and implementation of measures of an organizational and military nature in the area of nuclear deterrence.

26. Other federal executive bodies and organizations participate in the implementation of decisions adopted by the President of the Russian Federation concerning ensuring nuclear deterrence, in accordance with their powers.



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